

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended and new claims 12-19 added. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Withdrawal of Election of Species

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the withdrawal of the election of species requirement.

Trademarks in Specification

Applicants acknowledge the suggestion of the Examiner that the use of trademarks in the specification be reflected by the capitalization of such words.

In response, the specification is amended in a manner which is believed to address the issue raised by the Examiner.

Priority Claim

In response to the Examiner's suggestion, page 1 of the specification is amended to confirm the claim to priority pursuant to 35 USC 119 of the instant application. It is noted that this priority claim resides in the inventors' declaration as filed with the application.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one) as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, and in an attempt to address the issue raised by the Examiner, claim 1 is amended to state that the hydrolase used in the present invention is “capable of catalyzing the hydrolysis of said enantiomer”.

The rejection is thus believed to be without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one)

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one) as allegedly not being enabled for the claimed process. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, and in an attempt to address the issue raised by the Examiner, claim 1 is amended to state that the hydrolase used in the present invention “is capable of catalyzing the hydrolysis of said enantiomer.” Further, the specification (in the Examples and at least at page 26 of the specification) provides adequate enablement for the claimed invention. One of ordinary skill in the art is provided with ample disclosure to enable such person to practice the claimed invention.

The rejection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) as not distinctly claiming the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.


In response, claims 1 and 8 are amended to delete the use of the word "it", with "it" being replaced by the phrase "the ester of formula (III)" in order to provide the requisite antecedent basis.

The rejection is thus believed to be moot, and should be withdrawn.

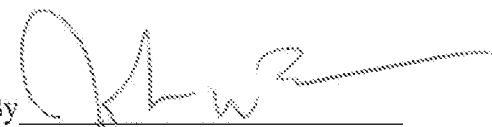
The application is accordingly believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

 Dated: August 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
John W. Bailey
Registration No.: 32,881
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant